

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

One of Applicants' representatives, Michael Wallace, conducted a telephonic interview with Examiner Hotaling on August 12, 2003 to discuss proposed claim language as substantially set forth in new Claims 47-60. The Examiner indicated that the claim language patentably distinguished over the prior art of record. As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 47-60.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, Claims 1-46 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-31 of then copending Application No. 09/350,330 now issued as Claims 1-29 of U.S. Patent No. 6,524,189 (hereinafter the '189 patent). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection in view of the cancellation of Claims 1 and 3-46 of the instant application. Applicants have added new Claims 47-60 that are patentably distinct from Claims 1-29 of the '189 patent and are in condition for allowance. It is believed that the present claims include various features and limitations that are not obvious in view of the '189 patent, and therefore the Applicants respectfully submit reconsideration of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, Claims 1 and 3-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of WO 93/23125 issued to Darling, U.S. Patent No. 5,999,808 issued to LaDuc, and WO 98/47589 issued to Angell. Applicants consider the rejection moot in view of the cancellation of Claims 1 and 3-46. In addition, Applicants have added Claims 47-60 that substantially set forth subject matter previously reviewed by the Examiner during the interview conducted on August 12, 2003. In connection with the Examiner's Interview of August 12, 2003, and in the Examiner's Interview Summary dated August 13, 2003, the Examiner indicated that if all the independent claims were directed to the subject matter claimed in the proposed claim amendment, the independent claims would overcome the previous rejection. The Applicant submits that the currently-pending claims are directed to such subject matter and thus allowable over the cited prior art. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 47-60 are in condition for allowance.

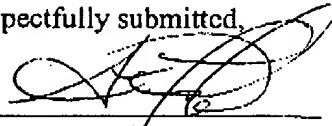
If the Examiner believes it necessary or helpful, the undersigned attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact him at (651) 686-6633 to discuss any issues related to this case.

Date:

9/8/03

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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